

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2001/03/03 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100040032-9

CHANNELS

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SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCNAMIS.  
STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER FOR MR FRYER. NMCC//ATTENTION  
CIA REP. TREASURY DEPT//INFO MR JOHN YEO.  
WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS  
INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 06

DATE: 12 APR 74

SUBJECT: ASAD'S VISIT @IN MOSCOW

REF : FBIS 132, 1915 GMT, 11 APR 74; FBIS 53, 1143 GMT 12  
APR 74; FBIS 63, 1215 GMT, 12 APR 74

SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD CONCLUDED HIS TALKS WITH SOVIET LEADERS  
TODAY, ACCORDING TO TASS, AND WILL LEAVE TOMORROW FOR DAMASCUS.  
BOTH THE TIMING AND OF ASAD'S VISIT AND THE BREVITY OF THE  
SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS SUGGEST THAT HE MAY HAVE ACCEPTED THE  
SOVIETS' INVITATION MAINLY TO ASSUAGE THEIR SENSITIVITIES ABOUT  
BEING EXCLUDED FROM THE WASHINGTON DISENGAGEMENT TALKS. ASAD  
PROBABLY ALSO HOPED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CURRENT STRENGTHAINS  
IN SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS TO STRENGTHEN SOVIET SUPPORT FOR  
SYRIA'S NEGOTIATING STANCE AND TO PRESS MOSCOW FOR MORE MILITARY

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ASSISTANCE.

ASAD EXPRESSED SYRIA'S EAGERNESS TO EXPAND COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND TO STRENGTHEN THE TWO COUNTRIES' FRIENDSHIP. HE THANKED THE SOVIETS FOR THEIR "CONSTANT SUPPORT" OF SYRIA'S OBJECTIVES IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL. HE WARNED THAT THE OCTOBER WAR WAS NOT YET OVER AND WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL THE ISRAELIS WITHDREW FROM ALL ARAB TERRITORY OCCUPIED IN 1967 AND THE FULL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS WERE RESTORED.

IN HIS DINNER SPEECH THURSDAY NIGHT, BREZHNEV MADE NO EFFORT TO HIDE HIS DISPLEASURE WITH EGYPTIAN AND US DIPLOMACY. REFERRING TO THE BILATERAL DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, HE CRITICIZED THE "ERZATZ-PLANS," WHICH ARE AIMED AT REPLACING AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT WITH "PARTIAL" AGREEMENTS. HE STRESSED ONCE AGAIN THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE HAD BEEN SET UP AS THE AUTHORITATIVE INTERNATIONAL FORUM AND ONLY THERE "CAN AND MUST" A SETTLEMENT BE WORKED OUT.

AT A LUNCHEON SPEECH TODAY, PRESIDENT PODGORNYY REFERRED TO "AGREEMENTS" WITH SYRIA, BUT NO DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE. AN END-OF-THE-VISIT COMMUNIQUE HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN APPROVED, ALTHOUGH

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IT PROBABLY WILL NOT BE ISSUED UNTIL ASAD HAS LEFT. BOTH SIDES  
REPORTEDLY REAFFIRMED THEIR DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE TO SEEK  
PEACE BASED ON THE LIBERATION OF ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY AND  
THE RESTORATION OF THE "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF  
PALESTINE." E2 IMPDET.4 25X1A9a

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DATE: 12 APR 78  
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